

App'l. No. 10/066,122  
Amdt. dated August 20, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of July 8, 2003

## REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated July 8, 2003. Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1-5, 7, 9-14, 16 and 18 are rejected. Claims 1, 8, 10 and 17 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's instructions. Claims 2-7, 11-15 and 18 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 8, 10, and 17 remain pending in the present application.

### Abstract

**2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it exceeds 150 words. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).**

Applicant has revised the Abstract in accordance with the Examiner's instructions.

### Allowable Subject Matter

**10. Claims 6, 8, 15 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.**

**11. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:**

**As to Claims 6 and 15 (which depend from Claims 5 and 14, respectively), patentability resides in the combined limitation wherein the first midplane connector comprises a plurality of midplane subconnectors (Claims 5 and 14) and the second midplane connector comprises a single midplane connector, in combination with the other limitations of Claims 6 and 15, respectively.**

**12. As allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant's reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).**

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 2 through 6, and claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 11 through 15. Claims 8 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of all the intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1, 8, 10 and 17 are in allowable form.

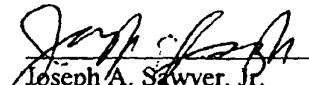
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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 8, 10 and 17 are patentable as amended. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the claims as now presented.

Applicants' attorney believes this application in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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